

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 12, please replace the paragraph at lines 18-22 with the following text:

The oligonucleotide primers used for this amplification would be as follows:

Forward primer 5'-CCGGCTCTCATCCTGATCA-3' (SEQ ID NO.1)

Reverse primer 5'-TCTTGGTTTATTTAGCCATGGTTTAA-3' (SEQ ID NO.2)

On page 12, please replace the paragraph at lines 24-28 with the following text:

The fluorescent 5'-FAM (6-carboxy fluoresceine) and 3'-TAMRA (6-carboxy-N, N, N', N'-tetramethylrhodamine) quencher labeled probe would be as follows:

Probe 5'-CCCTATATCCTTACGTGGCAAGATTTG-3'. (SEQ ID NO.3)

On page 18, please replace the paragraph at lines 13-28, through page 19, lines 1-5 with the following text:

Synthetic oligonucleotide primers and probes used in the present F-PERT assay for Brome mosaic virus RNA and MS2 RNA were obtained from PE Biosystems Ltd. UK:

Brome mosaic virus:

Forward primer (5')-TCTTGAGTTAGACCACAACGTTTCCT-(3') (SEQ ID NO.4)

Reverse primer (5')-TGCGCTTGCTCTGTGTGAGA-(3') (SEQ ID NO.5)

The fluorescent 5'-FAM (6-carboxy fluoresceine) and 3'-TAMRA (6-carboxy-N, N, N', N'-tetramethylrhodamine) quencher labeled probe was as follows:

(5') FAM-TCTGCTCGAGGAGAGCCCTGTTCC-TAMRA (3') (SEQ ID NO.6).

For bacteriophage MS2 RNA the primers were:

Forward primer (5')-GGCTGCTCGCGGATACC-(3') (SEQ ID NO.7)

Reverse primer (5')-AACTTGCGTTCTCGAGCGAT-(3') (SEQ ID NO.8)

The fluorescent 5'-FAM (6-carboxy fluoresceine) and 3'-TAMRA (6-carboxy-N, N, N', N'-tetramethyl rhodamine) quencher labeled probe was:

(5') FAM-ACCTCGGGTTTCCGTCTTGCTCG-TAMRA (3') (SEQ ID NO.9).